

to the Right Honourable the LORDS, and to
the GENTLEMEN Convened at WESTMINSTER. 51 12

It's not unknown to your Lordships, &c. what singular Reports have
been published in Print, as well as otherwise, concerning the Birth
of the Prince of *Wales*; importing, That the Kingdom had not
fair and usual Assurance of his being born of the Queen: For not-
withstanding, in order to the Silencing such Reflections, there was an
extraordinary Council called, *Octob. 22. 1688.* before whom above
twenty Persons of Honour, and others in close Attendance about the
Queen, Appeared and Testified upon Oath, their Knowledge concern-
ing the Birth of the Prince of *Wales*; deposing to such Circumstances
before, at, and after the Birth of the said Prince, as they knew or con-
ceived Material to such an Enquiry; as by the Depositions printed and
enrolled in the Court of Chancery appears more at large. Yet it so
hap'ned (for Reasons not proper to be here inserted) that this Expe-
dient fell short of giving a General Satisfaction; People still Continuing
or at least Pretending to be divided in their Judgments about this
Matter; And since your Lordships, &c. upon Application, are pleas'd to
condescend to Business though of an Inferior Nature, it's therefore
humbly Conceiv'd that a farther Examination into the Birth of the said
Prince of *Wales* will not be unacceptable to your Lordships, &c. especial-
ly if your Lordships, &c. shall please to consider the following Reasons.

1. The Prince of *Orange*, *Octob. 10. 1688.* has Avowed himself dis-
satisfied about the Birth of the Prince of *Wales* to that Degree, that
his Highness has Declared, **The want of sufficient Evidence in this
Point one of the principal motives of his Expedition into Eng-
land; and likewise engaged himself to refer the Enquiry into
his Affair, and of all Things relating to it, to the hearing of
Parliament.** Declar. p. 12, 13.

2. The King, in his Majesty's Letter to the Convention, dated at
Germaines, Jan. 1688. conjures the Lords, and the Gentlemen then
met, to *make a thorough Examination into the Birth of the Prince of Wales.*
Now since both Parties are so pressing to have this Matter debated,
by a publick Tryal; since their Honour and Inclinations are so far en-
gaged for the clearing this Point, it's humbly hoped your Lordships, &c.
after almost Two Years delay, may not think it improper to have it
undertaken.

3. It's presumed your Lordships, &c. are not unacquainted how
deeply the Deponents to this Affair have been Censured, both in
Pamphlets and common Discourse; as if they were Confederates to an
Imposition of the most flagitious and provoking Nature, and contrived
to impose an Heir upon these Kingdoms; a Master-piece of Wickedness
which as in their Souls they abhor; so they think it their great Mis-
fortune to live under the Scandal of so heavy an Imputation: And
therefore it's the humble Desire of several of the said Deponents (not
doubting of the Concurrence of the Rest) that the Case may be Re-
examined, and the Witnesses summon'd before your Lordships, &c. that
so they may either have Opportunity to rescue their Honour and Re-
putation (which they value above all Worldly Blessings) from
those

those Calumnies which are cast upon them; or, upon Conviction of Insincerity, may undergo the Penalties due to so vile and unexampled a Perjury. And that your Lordships, &c. may be the more inclinable to hear them in Vindication of themselves, several of the said Deponents do promise, That their next Testimony shall be (if possible) more plain, particular, and comprehensive than the former; and that they have several Things to offer to your Lordships, &c. not unworthy of your Lordships, &c. knowledge, which before were judged unnecessary, and omitted out of Modesty and Reserve.

4. For a farther Motive, your Lordships, &c. may please to take Notice That Circumstances of Time are now such, that it cannot with the least pretence of Reason be supposed the Deponents are either Bribed or Overawed into a partial Testimony, in favour of the Prince of Wales, as was before Objected against them, by the *Protestant Memorial*, and the *Full Answer to the Depositions*, &c. Besides, as your Lordships, &c. know The present Posture of Affairs will afford all imaginable Incouragement for freedom of Questions, for confronting the Deponents, and producing Counter-Evidences, (if there is any such) so that the whole Matter may be lay'd open and cleared, to the satisfaction of all Persons concerned therein.

5. With all due Submission to your Lordships Judgments, it's humbly conceiv'd, That Dispatch and Expedition in this Case is a very valuable Circumstance: For by this Means your Lordships, &c. will prevent those Inconveniencies which may happen from Accidents, and Mortality. For notwithstanding the Evidence is enrolled in Chancery, and may be inspected at any Time hereafter, yet if the Number of the Deponents should be lessened, your Lordships, &c. cannot enter upon the Merits of the Cause with the same Advantage, nor receive that Satisfaction *Viva Voce* which may be now had: Besides there is Reason to apprehend it will be too late to except against the Testimony of the Deponents after their Decease; so that if there has been any unfair Dealing, the Opportunity of Discovering it will be in danger of being lost.

Lastly, Your Lordships, &c. may please to consider, Whether in Case the Depositions are neither disprov'd, nor the Prince of Wales own'd, the Consequence of such a Procedure may not prove Unfortunate? For since in strictness of Law there is no greater Proof required for the Legitimacy of a King's Son than for that of an inferior Subject, it's to be feared some Ill-disposed and Litigious Persons will take Occasion from hence to Question the Birth of private Persons, which possibly they will be apt to say is seldom so well Attested as that of the Prince of Wales. Which malicious Reflections, how far they may tend to the creating Disputes, entangling Property, and the dishonour of Families, as your Lordships, &c. are the best Judges, so your Quality and Fortunes make it more particularly your Lordships Interest to prevent.

There Remains no more to Trouble your Lordships, &c. with, excepting this humble Request, That provided your Lordships, &c. shall think it proper to wave making any further Enquiry into this Affair, an Expedient may be found out to cover the Deponents from the Aspersions of False Witness; and that the Nation may have Leave to believe your Lordships, &c. are fully Satisfied with their former Evidence.

October. 1690.